SUPPLEMENT
TO THE
BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL.

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British Medical Association.

CURRENT NOTES.

The Facilities of the Association's Lending Library.

THE question of how to increase the facilities afforded to members by the Lending Library of the British Medical Association is one which constantly engages the attention of the Science Committee. During the past few years there has been a notable increase in the number of members availing themselves of these facilities, but it is apparent that many members still do not appreciate the advantages which the Association's Library offers. Members who read the full report of the proceedings in the Annual Representative Meeting at Nottingham in July last (SUPPLEMENT, July 24th, 1926, pp. 54-55) will have noted that approval was given by the Representative Body to a proposal that members should (unless the particular volume is in very great demand) be entitled to borrow a book from the Library for a period of twenty-eight days, instead of fourteen days as was formerly the case. The Science Committee has now approved the following new rule giving effect to the Representative Body's decision:

> A member shall be entitled to retain a book borrowed from the Library for a period of twenty-eight days, unless the book be accompanied by a notification from the Librarian that it must be returned at the expiration of fourteen days.

The question of lessening the trouble of members, and especially those living at a distance from London, in applying for books has also received the consideration of the Science Committee, and a new rule will shortly be promulgated.

The Scottish Medical Secretary.

The many friends of Dr. J. R. Drever, the Scottish Medical Secretary, will be pleased to learn that at the quarterly meeting of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, held on November 2nd, he was elected a Fellow of the College.

Armistice Day at the B.M.A Head Office.

On Armistice Day the members of the central staff of the Association, to the number of 123, assembled in the Great Hall a few minutes before 11 a.m., and at that hour stood up and observed the two minutes' silence. This is the first time the staff has made the observance collectively. As on November 11th, 1925, the Union Jack on the flagstaff over the main block was lowered to half-mast during the silence.

Meetings of Branches and Divisions.

BOMBAY BRANCH.

A PRELIMINARY meeting to resuscitate the Bombay Branch was held on August 24th at the Pathological Laboratory, Grant Medical College.

The chair was taken by Dr. R. Row, vice-president and acting secretary, who explained the object of the meeting. He said that the Bombay Branch, after the sad death of its energetic secretary, the late Dr. Bardi, had transacted no business, and, in the absence of the president and the vice-president in Europe, had almost ceased to exist. He asked those present to infuse new life into the Branch and take a keener interest in its work by participating in discussions, reading papers, and showing cases and specimens, and by introducing new members. When he was in England last June he saw Dr. Cox, the Medical Secretary, at the headquarters in London, and it was decided to revive the British Medical Association in Bombay. The first step to be taken was the appointment of a secretary and treasurer, and Dr. Row suggested that, as it would be difficult for one man to carry out all the work, two men should be appointed, in order that if one was unable to be present at a meeting, the other could attend. This would, however, have to be confirmed by the next general meeting.

Dr. D. A. D'MONTE, the senior member present, agreed that the Branch should be revived provided there was no opposition from the other medical associations, and especially the Bombay Medical Union. To this Dr. Row agreed, and said that the existing members should work in harmony with the other bodies and try to induce them to become members of the Bombay Branch of the Association as well, as had been successfully done by Dr. Cox in South Africa.

Dr. CAIRNS agreed to the temporary appointments of Dr. B. Yodh and Dr. F. D. Bana as joint secretaries and treasurers, subject to confirmation at the general meeting to be called shortly. He also suggested that a clinical meeting should be held on the same occasion so as to get the members to take an active interest in clinical matters as well as official business.

A vote of thanks was accorded to Dr. R. Row for his effort in reviving the Bombay Branch.

DORSET AND WEST HANTS BRANCH: WEST DORSET DIVISION.

A MEETING of the West Dorset Division was held at the Weymouth and District Hospital on the wild and wet evening of November 9th. Twenty members were present, two of whom had travelled twenty miles and others also considerable distances. Dr. REES was in the chair.

Dr. A. GRAY showed a case of a boy who had been admitted profoundly unconscious with a mastoid abscess. A radical mastoid operation was done, also lumbar puncture. Cerebro-spinal fluid spurted out under considerable pressure from the puncture, and two full test tubes were collected which the pathologist reported to contain much pus. Consciousness returned immediately, and recovery was uninterrupted.

Mr. R. L. HORTON exhibited four cases: (*a*) Old tuberculous disease of the hip admitted with 6 in. shortening and in position of acute adduction. Osteotomy of the neck of the femur was done, and now the patient had a straight leg and only 2 in. shortening. (*b*) A man who had a motor-cycle accident, and was found to have dislocated his hip; there was also a fracture of the acetabulum with displacement of a fragment of the upper rim of the acetabulum. Open reduction was performed, and the loose fragment replaced and fixed with a screw. The patient recovered with almost complete range of movement. (*c*) A boy of 14 with hip disease diagnosed as "pseudo-coxalgia." (*d*) A boy showing a swelling of the left buttock, due to bursitis.

Dr. H. L. TASKER read a most interesting and detailed paper on bronchial asthma, and was followed by Dr. G. ALDRED-BROWN,

APPOINTMENTS.

FYFE, T. A., M.B., Ch.B.Glas., Senior House-Surgeon, Gloucestershire Royal Infirmary and Eye Hospital, Gloucester.

SCHOFIELD, C. R., M.B., Ch.B.Vict., Medical Officer to the Southport Post Office, vice R. M Littler, F.R.C.S., retired.

SPROTT, Norman A., M.Ch., M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Honorary Assistant Anaesthetist to the Ear, Nose, and Throat Department, King Edward VII Hospital, Windsor.

CERTIFYING FACTORY SURGEONS.—J. C. R. Richardson, jun., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., for the Witham District, co. Essex; J. B. G. Skelton, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., for the Gosport District, co. Southampton; A. L. B. Stevens, M.B., B.Ch.Oxon., for the Thame District, co. Oxford.

DIARY OF SOCIETIES AND LECTURES.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE.

General Meeting of Fellows.—Tues., 5.30 p.m. Ballot for election to Fellowship.

Section of Pathology.—Tues., 8.30 p.m., Dr. J. A. Murray: Delayed successful Autoplasty of Carcinoma; Dr. J. G. Greenfield: Adamantinoma of the Hypophysis Cerebri; Dr. Aldo Castellani: (1) Notes on Some Little Known Intestinal Bacteria; (2) Further Observations on Certain Phenomena of Probable Symbiotic Origin.

Section of History of Medicine.—Wed., 5 p.m., Professor William Wright: Mediaeval Conception of the Anatomy and Physiology of the Central Nervous System; Dr. Arthur Davies: A Montpellier Diploma.

Section of Dermatology.—Thurs., 4 p.m., Cases.

Annual Dinner of the Society.—Hotel Victoria, Thurs., 7.30 for 8 p.m.

Section of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.—Fri., 8 p.m., Cases. Paper:—Professor Louise Mellroy and Dr. Alfreda Baker: Causes and Prevention of Ante-natal, Intra-natal, and Neo-natal Death.

Section of Electro-Therapeutics.—Fri., 8.30 p.m., Dr. Walter J. Turrell: Physio-chemical Action of Interrupted Currents in Relation to their Therapeutic Effects.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON, Pall Mall East, S.W.1.—Fri., 5 p.m., David Lloyd Roberts Lecture by The Very Rev. Dean Inge, V.O., D.D.: Racial Degeneration.

ROYAL MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.—At British Medical Association House, Tavistock Square, W.C.1.—Mon., 4 p.m., Lecture by Dr. Alfred Adler (Vienna): The Causes and Prevention of Neurosis.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF TROPICAL MEDICINE AND HYGIENE.—At London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine: Thurs., 8.15 p.m., Laboratory Meeting. Demonstrations by Drs. H B. Newham, P. H. Manson-Bahr, C. M. Wenyon, H. H. Scott, J. G. Thomson, P. A. Buxton, J. W. A. Cameron, Aldo Castellani, C. A. Hoare, A. C. Stevenson, and H. M. Shelley.

HUNTERIAN SOCIETY, Cutlers' Hall, E.C.—Mon., 9.15 p.m., Discussion: Medicine and the Press. Speakers: Lord Riddell, Dr. J. M. Bulloch, and Mr. W. J. Evans for the Press; Sir Humphry Rolleston, Dr. Graham Little, and Dr. Leonard Williams for Medicine.

POST-GRADUATE COURSES AND LECTURES.

FELLOWSHIP OF MEDICINE AND POST-GRADUATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, 1, Wimpole Street, W.1.—Special Lecture at the Medical Society of London, 11, Chandos Street, W.1. Thurs., 5 p.m., Acute Intestinal Obstruction. Free to members of the medical profession. *Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital*, City Road, E.C.: Fri., 1 p.m., Clinical Demonstration. Free to members of the medical profession. *St. Peter's Hospital*, Henrietta Street, W.C.: Fri., 2 p.m., Clinical Demonstration. Free to members of the medical profession. *Royal Waterloo Hospital*, Waterloo Road, S.E. Special Course in Medicine, Surgery, and Gynaecology. *St. John's Hospital*, Leicester Square. Special Course in Dermatology. Practical Demonstration in Pathology if desired. *London Lock Hospital*, Dean Street: Clinical Course in Venereal Diseases. Instruction in the Out-patient Department. Copies of the syllabuses of the above and information on post-graduate work generally may be obtained from the Secretary of the Fellowship of Medicine.

CENTRAL LONDON THROAT, NOSE AND EAR HOSPITAL, Gray's Inn Road, W.C.1.—Fri., 4 p.m., Lecture: Nasal Obstruction.

HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN, Great Ormond Street, W.C.1.—Thurs., 4 p.m., Some Inspiring Cases of Rheumatism.

LONDON SCHOOL OF DERMATOLOGY, St. John's Hospital, Leicester Square, W.C.2.—Tues., 5 p.m., Diseases due to Fungi. Thurs., 6 p.m., Pathology Demonstrations.

NATIONAL HOSPITAL, Queen Square, W.C.1.—Mon., Tues., Thurs., and Fri., 2 p.m., Out-patient Clinics. Mon., 12 noon, Pathology of the Nervous System; 3.30 p.m., Optic Atrophy. Tues., 12 noon, Anatomy and Physiology of the Nervous System; 3.30 p.m., Head Injuries. Thurs., 3.30 p.m., Cerebral Disturbances of Vision. Fri., 3.30 p.m., Poliomyelitis. Operations: Tues. and Fri., 9 a.m.

NORTH-EAST LONDON POST-GRADUATE COLLEGE, Prince of Wales's General Hospital, Tottenham, N.15.—Mon., 2.30 to 5 p.m., Medical, Surgical, and Gynaecological Clinics; Operations. Tues., 2.30 to 5 p.m., Medical, Surgical, Throat, Nose, and Ear Clinics; Operations. Wed., 2.30 p.m., Special Demonstration of Dermatological Cases; 2.30 to 5 p.m., Medical Skin and Eye Clinics; Operations. Thurs., 2.30 to 5 p.m., Medical, Surgical, and Ear, Nose, and Throat Clinics; Operations. Fri., 2.30 p.m., Special Demonstration of Medical Cases; 2.30 to 5 p.m., Surgical, Medical, and Children's Diseases Clinics; Operations.

POST-GRADUATE HOSTEL, Imperial Hotel, Russell Square, W.C.1.—Tues., 9 p.m., Treatment of Gastric and Duodenal Ulcers. Fri., 9 p.m., The Practitioner and the Public Health Man.

ROYAL INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH, 37, Russell Square, W.C.1.—Wed., 4 p.m., The Problem of Rheumatism and Rheumatic Heart Disease in Children.

WEST LONDON HOSPITAL POST-GRADUATE COLLEGE, Hammersmith, W.6.—Mon., 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Genito-urinary Operations, Skin Department, Surgical Ward Visit, Demonstration of Fractures; 2 p.m., Surgical Wards, Gynaecological and Eye Departments. Tues., 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Lecture on Clinical Methods, Demonstrations in Venereal Diseases and Chest Cases; 2 p.m., Medical Wards, Throat, Nose, and Ear Department. Wed., 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Children's Medical Out-patients, Medical Wards, Demonstration in Medical Pathology; 2 p.m., Surgical Wards, Eye Department. Thurs., 10 a.m. to 12 noon, Neurological Department; 2 p.m., Eye and Genito-urinary Departments; 3 p.m., Gynaecological Wards. Fri., 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Gynaecological Operations, Skin, Dental, and Electrical Departments, Lecture on Modern Methods in Medicine; 2 p.m., Throat, Nose, and Ear Department. Sat., 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Bacterial Therapy and Children's Medical Out-patient Departments. Daily at 2 p.m., Medical and Surgical Out-patients, Operations.

GLASGOW POST-GRADUATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.—At Western Infirmary: Wed., 4.15 p.m., Surgical Cases.

JAMES MACKENZIE INSTITUTE FOR CLINICAL RESEARCH, St. Andrews.—Tues., 4 p.m., Some Forms of Acidosis in Children.

MANCHESTER: ANCOATS HOSPITAL.—Thurs., 4.15 p.m., Technique; Control of Haemorrhage. Tea at 3.45.

MANCHESTER ROYAL INFIRMARY.—Tues., 4.15 p.m., Malignant Disease of the Lungs. Fri., 4.15 p.m., Cancer of the Gastro-intestinal Tract.

SHEFFIELD UNIVERSITY POST-GRADUATE CLINICS.—Fri., 3.30 p.m., Chronic Disease of the Maxillary Antrum.

British Medical Association.

OFFICES, BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE, TAVISTOCK SQUARE, W.C.1.

Departments.

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SCOTTISH MEDICAL SECRETARY: 5, Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh. (Telegrams: Associate, Edinburgh. Tel.: 4361 Central.)

IRISH MEDICAL SECRETARY: 16, South Frederick Street, Dublin. (Telegrams: Bacillus, Dublin. Tel.: 4737 Dublin.)

Diary of the Association.

NOVEMBER.

16 Tues. Darlington Division: Annual Dinner, Imperial Hotel, Darlington, 8.15 p.m.
Lewisham Division: Town Hall, Catford, S.E.6. Dr. M. Davidson on Toxaemia and its Investigation in Practice, 8.45 p.m.
St. Helens Division: Fleece Hotel, 4 p.m.
Stratford Divison: Educational Offices, The Grove, Stratford. Discussion on the General Practitioner and the Hospital; to be opened by Mr. H. S. Souttar, 9.15 p.m.
West Somerset Branch, Taunton and Somerset Hospital, Taunton. B.M.A. Lecture by Dr. Herbert French on a Series of Small Points, 4.30 p.m. Annual Dinner, County Hotel, Taunton, 7.30.

17 Wed. London: Hospitals Committee, 2.30 p.m
Brighton Division: Clinical Meeting, Children's Hospital, 3.45 p.m
Chichester and Worthing Division: Autumn Dinner, Warne's Hotel, Worthing, 7 p.m.
Plymouth Division: Annual Meeting, Goodbody's Restaurant, Bedford Street, Plymouth, 4 p.m.
Rotherham Division: Annual Dinner, Crown Hotel, Rotherham, 7.15 p.m.
South-West Wales Division: Carmarthenshire Infirmary, Carmarthen. Sir John Lynn-Thomas on Gleanings from the Story of the Thyroid Gland, 3 p.m.
Willesden Division: St. Andrew's Schools, High Road, Willesden Green. Dr. Reginald Miller on Rheumatic Heart Disease in Children, 9 p.m.

18 Thurs. London: Dental Anaesthetics Subcommittee, 10.45 a.m.
London: Insurance Acts Committee, 12 noon.
Gloucestershire Branch: General Hospital, Cheltenham, 6.15 p.m. Supper, Cadena Café, after the meeting.
Maidstone Division: West Kent General Hospital, 3.30 p.m.
North of England Branch: Scientific Meeting, Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle, 2.15 p.m.
Southport Division: Social Evening, Royal Hotel.
Wakefield, Pontefract, and Castleford Division: Bull Restaurant, Westgate, Wakefield. Dr. A. E. Pearson on Diagnosis of Infectious Diseases. Supper, 7.45 p.m.

19 Fri. London: Dominions Committee, 2.30 p.m.
East York Division: Lecture by Dr. S. Cameron.
Kingston-on-Thames Division: Annual Dinner, Nuthall's Restaurant, Kingston, 7.30 for 8 p.m.

23 Tues. Croydon Division: Croydon General Hospital. Mr. Gwynne Williams on Surgical Emergencies of General Practice, 8.30 p.m.

24 Wed. London: Medico-Political Committee, 2.30 p.m.
Bath and Bristol Branch: Bath.
Marylebone Division: 11, Chandos Street, W. Discussion on Life Assurance; to be opened by Mr. W. McAdam Eccles, 8.15 p.m

25 Thurs. London: Medical Students and Newly Qualified Subcommittee, 2.30 p.m.
Dundee Branch: University College, Dundee. B.M.A. Lecture by Professor D. Murray Lyon on the Value of Basal Metabolic Rate Estimations in Clinical Work, 4.15 p.m.
Nuneaton and Tamworth Division: Tamworth General Hospital. Dr. L. G. Parsons on Some Problems of Nephritis in Children.
Portsmouth Division: Clinical Meeting, Royal Portsmouth Hospital, 3 p.m.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

The charge for inserting announcement of Births, Marriages, and Deaths is 9s., which sum should be forwarded with the notice not later than the first post on Tuesday morning, in order to ensure insertion in the current issue.

BIRTH.

GALPIN.—On November 7th, at Maryville, Harrow Drive, Romford, to Dr. and Mrs. Galpin, a son.

MARRIAGES.

M'ROBERT—REES.—At St. Mary's Chapel, Rangoon, on October 25th, 1926, Ronald M'Robert, Captain, I.M.S., Maymyo, Burmah, younger son of Mr. and Mrs. A. T. M'Robert, 52, St. Swithin Street, Aberdeen, to Julie, eldest daughter of the late George Stanley Rees and Mrs. Rees, The Rowans, Dinas Powis, South Wales. (By cable.)

WOODMAN—NISBET.—At Partick Parish Church, Glasgow, on October 27th, G. S. Woodman, F.R.C.S.Ed., Chief Surgical Specialist to the Government of Iraq, to Margaret Maxwell, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Nisbet, 48, Kersland Street, Glasgow.

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officer referring to a scheme of insurance whereby pregnant women might be insured against the payment of fees of doctors called in by midwives during their confinement on a payment of 5s. These leaflets, he said, had been distributed broadcast, and no discrimination had apparently so far been used. It was contended that the proposal would be detrimental to the welfare of lying-in women and also an undesirable interference between doctors and their patients. It would come inevitably into the hands of all classes of the community. In addition, some of the wording of the leaflet was thought to be misleading. Dr. Livingston then moved the following motion:

> That this meeting protests most strongly against the indiscriminate distribution by the county council of the leaflet entitled "Fees of doctors called in by midwives," (1) to all mothers when notifications of births have been received, whether they have hitherto engaged a doctor or not; (2) to all midwives without any instruction as to the circumstances of the persons to whom the leaflets are to be given, and (3) to clerks of parish councils and in other ways, which is an unjustifiable interference with the practices of private medical practitioners and not in the best interests of lying-in women, and calls for the limitation of the scheme to necessitous persons.

A long discussion ensued, during which the COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER read a detailed statement showing how, in his opinion, no financial disadvantages had accrued, or would accrue, to general practitioners through the operation of the scheme, but rather that the practitioners would be gainers thereby. The public would gain by a better midwifery service owing to more frequent consultations sought for by midwives and to a corresponding increase in the total remuneration by the profession. As regards the method of distribution, the county medical officer stated that an addendum had been printed in red on the leaflet referred to as objectionable stating that it did not apply to persons engaging a doctor before confinement.

As the proposer of the resolution was called away to a maternity case and a number of others had had to leave owing to the lateness of the hour, the resolution was not put, and the discussion ended without any definite result having been arrived at.

SUSSEX BRANCH: HASTINGS DIVISION.

A MEETING of the Hastings Division was held at the Eversfield Hotel on November 2nd, when Dr. E. C. MACKAY was in the chair.

On the proposition of Dr. BRUCE (medical officer of health, Hastings), the Division adopted the resolution relating to the scale of minimum salaries for medical officers of health. Dr. T. D. GREENLEES read a paper on "Some notes on the early treatment of mental disease." The address was listened to with great interest and its many practical points were much appreciated. An interesting discussion followed, in which the CHAIRMAN, Dr. BAIRD, Dr. HOWE, and others joined.

YORKSHIRE BRANCH: SHEFFIELD DIVISION.

A GENERAL meeting of the Sheffield Division was held on October 29th, when the chairman of the Division, Mr. C. W. SMITH, O.B.E., presided, and the representatives presented their account of the Annual Representative Meeting at Nottingham.

Dealing with the business of the Representative Meeting, Dr. MACKINNON said there had been a vigorous discussion of the question whether additional sections should be formed at next year's meeting at Edinburgh. New Sections on Medical History, Venereal Diseases, and Radiology were suggested, but the meeting felt that while something might be said in favour of a new Section on Medical History, it would be best not to increase the number of Sections. A long and animated discussion on psycho-analysis had taken place on a resolution of the Sussex Division. Last year this subject had been referred to the Council, who had later referred it to the Ethical Committee. Some extraordinarily able speeches were made in discussing this subject. Although the general feeling seemed to be that the proposed inquiry would not at the present date be of much use, the meeting ultimately voted in favour of the Council taking up the matter again. Referring to the naval and military section of the Council's Report, Dr. Mackinnon emphasized the good work which had been done by the British Medical Association. Some years ago the Royal Army Medical Corps suffered severely from the "economy stunt" then in progress. The Association took the step of refusing to place in the Educational Number of the JOURNAL any reference to the R.A.M.C. Owing to the unsatisfactory conditions offered there was a shortage of men offering for service, and later the Government accepted the recommendations of the Association. Newly qualified men might now, in his opinion, reasonably be advised to enter the Services as the terms at present offered were accepted as satisfactory by the Association. Lastly, Dr. Mackinnon said that a very eloquent appeal was made by the chairman of the new Charities Committee of the Association, who pointed out that if members of the profession would only subscribe on an average twenty shillings a year each, much more satisfactory work could be done. Unfortunately the present rate of subscriptions by members fell very short of that modest amount.

Dr. HELM said he had been very favourably impressed by his first experience of an Annual Representative Meeting. Dealing with finance, he said the treasurer reported a very satisfactory state of affairs. In spite of all the extra expense connected with the new house in London and also in Edinburgh, there was no overdraft, but a balance on the right side. The income for 1925 had exceeded that of 1924 by some £9,000. A discussion had taken place on the amount expended on science, which some spoke of as scandalously small. When the matter was gone into, however, it appeared that in various ways, more or less direct, nearly £13,000 a year was, as a matter of fact, devoted to scientific purposes.

Mr. BROCKMAN, assistant surgeon to the Sheffield Royal Infirmary, dealt with the particular questions affecting hospitals arising at the Annual Representative Meeting. An important resolution had been passed regarding accident cases admitted to hospital. This was to the effect that where such cases were covered by insurance the hospital should recover from the insurance companies concerned the full cost of maintenance and treatment. After the discussion of access to the case sheets of hospital patients, the meeting passed a resolution that access should be allowed only by the visiting medical staff Mr. Brockman dealt also with the remuneration of visiting staffs of Poor Law hospitals, the question of registration of nursing homes, and also the practice of tendering for appointments, which last was strongly disapproved of by the Representative Meeting. In connexion with Poor Law reform, he mentioned that a letter had been received from the Minister of Health stating that steps were being taken to safeguard the position of medical officers of the Poor Law. Lastly, Mr. Brockman mentioned the subject of public education in health. On the motion of the Brighton Division the Council was instructed to consider how the Divisions could assist in this very important matter.

On the proposal of Mr. KING, seconded by Dr. FORBES, the three representatives of the Division were cordially thanked for their full and lucid account of their stewardship.

Association Notices.

BRANCH AND DIVISION MEETINGS TO BE HELD.

BATH AND BRISTOL BRANCH.—A meeting of the Bath and Bristol Branch will be held at Bath on Wednesday, November 24th.

BIRMINGHAM BRANCH: NUNEATON AND TAMWORTH DIVISION.—A meeting of the Nuneaton and Tamworth Division will be held at Tamworth General Hospital on Thursday, November 25th, at 3.30 p.m. Agenda: Any business arising out of minutes; paper by Dr. L. G. Parsons: Some problems of nephritis in children.

BORDER COUNTIES BRANCH: DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY DIVISION.—A meeting of the Division will be held in the Royal Infirmary, Dumfries, on Thursday, December 2nd, at 3 p.m., when Professor Hume of Newcastle-on-Tyne will deliver a British Medical Association Lecture on the recognition and treatment of cardiac arrhythmia, illustrated with lantern slides. Tea will be provided.

DUNDEE BRANCH.—A meeting of the Dundee Branch will be held on Thursday, November 25th, at 4.15 p.m., in University College, Dundee, when a British Medical Association Lecture will be given by Professor D. Murray Lyon (Edinburgh) on the value of basal metabolic rate estimations in clinical work. Members of other Branches are invited.

ESSEX BRANCH: MID-ESSEX DIVISION.—The general meeting of the Mid-Essex Division arranged for November 12th had to be postponed. It will be held in the Board Room, Chelmsford Hospital, on Friday, December 17th, at 3 p.m. Agenda: Report on scale of minimum commercing salaries for public health medical officers, and recommendation to adopt resolution under Ethical Rules; question of appointing a consultant for cases of puerperal pyrexia presenting difficulties; demonstration of x-ray photographs by Dr. L. M. Billington, radiologist to the Chelmsford Hospital. An executive meeting will be held at 2.45 p.m., immediately prior to the general meeting

GLASGOW AND WEST OF SCOTLAND BRANCH: LANARKSHIRE DIVISION.—The following meetings have been arranged by the Lanarkshire Division:

Jan. 11th.	At Masonic Hall, Hamilton Dr. John Glaister: The Medical Man in the Witness Box, 8.30 p.m.
Feb. 22nd.	At County Hospital, Motherwell. Dr. John Reid: The Fever Hospital and the Practitioner, 8.30 p.m.
March 8th.	Lecture arranged by the Monklands Medical Society at Masonic Hall, Hamilton. Dr. J. Hume Patterson: Provisions for a Pure Milk Supply, 8.30 p.m.
April 6th.	At Dalzell House. Visit to Lord Hamilton of Dalzell's Model Farm, 3 p.m.
May 4th.	At 242, St. Vincent Street, Glasgow. Annual General Meeting, 3 p.m.
June 8th.	At Hartwood. Visit to Lanark District Asylum, 3 p.m.

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE BRANCH: ROCHDALE DIVISION.—A meeting of the Rochdale Division will be held in the Education Offices, Baillie Street, on Wednesday, November 24th, at 8.30 p.m., when an address will be given by Dr. T. H. Oliver (Manchester) on diabetes.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: HAMPSTEAD DIVISION.—The following programme of meetings for the session 1926-27 has been arranged by the Hampstead Division:

Dec. 9th.	Sir Leonard Rogers, C.I.E., M.D., F.R.S. (physician to the London School of Tropical Medicine): Climate and the Incidence of Leprosy, Tuberculosis, Pneumonia, Small-pox, and Plague in India.
Jan. 13th.	Dr. W. J. Adie (physician to the National Hospital, Queen Square): Some Fits and Seizures.
Feb. 10th.	Mr. W. H. Trethowen, F.R.C.S. (orthopaedic surgeon to Guy's Hospital): Pain in the Back.
March 10th.	Dr. W. J. Pearson, D.S.O. (physician to the Hospital for Sick Children): Chronic Respiratory Infections in Children.
May 12th.	Discussion on the Annual Report of the Council.
June 9th.	Annual Meeting of the Division. Election of officers and committee.
July 14th.	Discussion on the Supplementary Report of the Council. Instructions to Representatives at the Annual Representative Meeting.

All meetings are held at 8.30 p.m. The place of meeting will be announced on the monthly notices sent to members a week before

who read a paper on the same subject, with special mention of the blood picture in this disease and with some interesting comparisons to other diseases showing similar blood conditions.

Dr. A. GRAY read a paper giving the results of treatment of the disease by the throat and nose surgeon and distributed sheets of statistics compiled from records of the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary.

Dr. H. E. MANNING spoke on asthma associated with tuberculosis.

Owing to the lateness of the hour no formal discussion took place, but some questions were put to those who had read papers.

The CHAIRMAN thanked those who had contributed to a most successful evening and the hospital authorities for the use of the premises and for their hospitality. At his suggestion it was unanimously resolved to have the papers printed and circulated to members. Refreshments were served at the conclusion.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: HARROW DIVISION.

THE annual meeting and dinner of the Harrow Division was held at the King's Head Hotel, Harrow-on-the-Hill, on October 26th, when Dr. H. L. HATCH was in the chair.

After the dinner, which was an unqualified success, the following officers were elected for 1926-27:

Chairman, Dr. B. H. Barton. *Vice-Chairman*, Dr. F. M. Matheson. *Representative in Representative Body*, Dr. H. L. Hatch. *Deputy Representatives in Representative Body*, Drs. D. D. Ritchie and W. A. Wilson-Smith. *Honorary Secretary and Treasurer*, Dr. W. L. Berry. *Assistant Secretary*, Dr. A. G Hammond.

Votes of thanks were unanimously accorded to Dr. C. F. Mayne, the retiring secretary, and to the Dinner Subcommittee. It was decided to hold a special meeting on November 9th to deal with the business of the Maternity Hostel.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: SOUTH MIDDLESEX DIVISION.

AN ordinary meeting of the South Middlesex Division was held at St. John's Hospital, Twickenham, on November 10th.

Notification and Treatment of Puerperal Pyrexia.

Dr. G. H. DUPONT, medical officer of health for Twickenham, read a paper on "Puerperal pyrexia—its notification and treatment." He stated that the number of cases of raised temperature occurring in the practices of midwives of Middlesex was approximately 6 per 1,000 births, and about one case in four proved to be puerperal fever. Puerperal fever had been notifiable for nearly forty years, but owing to many difficulties much delay had been caused. Under the Public Health (Notification of Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia) Regulations, 1926, which came into force on October 1st, 1926, any febrile condition (other than a condition requiring to be notified under the Infectious Diseases Notification Acts, 1889, 1899) occurring in a woman within twenty-one days of childbirth or miscarriage in which a temperature of 100.48° F. had been sustained during a period of twenty-four hours or had recurred during that period, must be notified to the medical officer of health on a special form.

Dr. Dupont considered the position under two main heads: (*a*) *Duty of Practitioner:* The new regulations were definite and comprehensive; regardless of severity or importance, all cases which fell under the above definition must be notified. The notification must be given on first becoming aware, and should be early. At the same time a request could be made for (1) a second opinion; (2) bacteriological investigation; (3) provision of trained nurses; (4) admission into hospital. (*b*) *Duty of Local Authority:* Notification received and fee of 2s. 6d. paid. Investigation of cases—this investigation should be done by the local medical officer of health. If the second opinion were furnished by a local practitioner many difficulties would arise; if by a consultant, much alarm would be caused to patients and aspersions cast upon doctor and midwife by the patient's friends; if by the local medical officer of health (when in whole-time employment), he would be on the spot and the matter would become a routine duty. In regard to provision of facilities, Dr. Dupont considered that the local medical officer of health should be prepared to take specimens for blood culture films, etc., if requested. Trained nurses would presumably supersede the monthly nurse, and hospital treatment was to be preferred to treatment at home. The general hospital would usually be impracticable for these cases, and there were many objections to the Poor Law infirmary. The best solution of the difficulty seemed to be treatment in special wards or cubicle beds in the local isolation hospital.

Dr. Dupont then submitted copies of a suggested scheme. As all cases had to be investigated, and as certain very technical questions had to be asked of the practitioner, he suggested a procedure that might be followed in districts where the medical officer of health was not in practice in the district.

A discussion then took place concerning this subject, after which Dr. Dupont was thanked for his interesting paper. As the subject was important owing to the regulations recently issued, all non-members practising in Twickenham were invited to attend the meeting.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: SOUTH-WEST ESSEX DIVISION.

A MEETING of the South-West Essex Division was held at Livingstone College on November 2nd, when Dr. W. LANGDON BROWN, physician to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, gave an address on organotherapy in general practice. The address was much appreciated by the meeting, and the CHAIRMAN, in thanking the lecturer, voiced the feelings of all present. On the motion of Dr. JAYS, superintendent of Livingstone College, seconded by Dr. WIGRAM, a very hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Dr. Langdon Brown.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: TOWER HAMLETS DIVISION.

A CLINICAL meeting was held on November 3rd at the London Hospital, when Dr. W. J. O'DONOVAN gave a demonstration in the artificial sunlight and Finsen light departments, about forty members being present. A vote of thanks was accorded to Dr. O'Donovan on the motion of Dr. HASTINGS, the chairman, and also to Mr. E. W. Morris, the house governor, and Professor William Wright, F.R.C.S., dean of the Medical College.

OXFORD AND READING BRANCH: OXFORD DIVISION.

THE fifth meeting of the year was held in the Radcliffe Infirmary on October 27th. Dr. CHEATLE was in the chair, and between thirty and forty members were present.

Dr. F. G. GARDNER (Oxford) showed a boy, aged 12, suffering from lymphadenoma. Mr. WATERFIELD (Banbury) exhibited a uterus with a pedunculated fibroid growing from the endometrium, which he had removed from a patient who had suffered from menorrhagia for some years.

Dr. DOUGLAS MCALPINE (physician in charge, Department of Nervous Diseases, Middlesex Hospital) read a paper on disseminated sclerosis, with special reference to its infective origin.

SHROPSHIRE AND MID-WALES BRANCH.

AT the annual general meeting held on October 28th the following took office:

President, Dr. George Hollies (Alderman, Salop County Council). *Vice-President*, Dr. James Wheatley (M.O.H., County of Salop). *Representative in Representative Body*, Dr. George Mackie. *Honorary Secretary and Treasurer*, Dr. R. L. E. Downer.

A British Medical Association Lecture by Dr. G. F. STILL on diet as a factor in disease in childhood was thoroughly enjoyed. The annual dinner at the Raven Hotel, which followed, was very successful; it was attended by about eighty members and guests. The President was supported by four nephews and grand-nephews, all belonging to the profession and to the Association. The toast of the British Medical Association was proposed by a prominent local coalowner, who coupled with it the name of Dr. C. Courtenay Lord, Assistant Medical Secretary. Dr. LORD, in the course of his reply, deplored the fact that so many non-members enjoyed all the benefits gained by the exertions of the British Medical Association, yet did not feel it incumbent upon them to join the Association by way of return.

SOUTHERN BRANCH: WINCHESTER DIVISION.

Joint Meeting with Hants Panel Committee.

A COMBINED meeting of the Winchester Division of the British Medical Association and the Hampshire Local Medical and Panel Committee was held at the Castle, Winchester, on October 24th. The meeting was called for the purpose of discussing the Public Health (Notification of Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia) Regulations, 1926, and circulars issued by the county medical officer in connexion therewith. The medical officer of health of the city of Winchester was also present for the purpose of obtaining the views of the profession in accordance with instructions from the City Maternity and Child Welfare Committee.

Dr. J. P. WILLIAMS-FREEMAN of Andover was voted to the chair, and in introducing the subject he asked the county medical officer of health to make a statement as to the present position of the county council in this matter.

The COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER stated that at the present time there were in operation full facilities for dealing with three of the four requirements urged on local authorities in the Ministry's circular letter 722, August, 1926—namely, (1) bacteriological work; (2) admission to hospital; (3) nursing assistance. No arrangements had yet been made with regard to the services of consultants. He said that he would therefore welcome suggestions from practitioners and would then state his views.

After some discussion in which Drs. LIVINGSTON, WILLIAMS-FREEMAN, ROBERTS, EDWARDS, BODINGTON, and others took part, Dr. GURNEY DIXON, chairman of the county council committee dealing with the matter, stated that a knowledge of the opinions of the private practitioners of the county would be very valuable to the committee in more ways than one on the question of consultants; and the COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER thought that in the event of the practitioners submitting names of consultants of their choice, the county council would consider their recommendations seriously.

After a good deal of discussion the following resolutions were adopted:

(1) That the medical practitioners of the administrative county of Southampton, at a meeting of the Winchester Division of the British Medical Association and the Hampshire Medical and Panel Committee, having carefully considered the Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia Regulations, 1926, made by the Ministry of Health, urge the county and city councils to provide full assistance for notified cases when it is required as recommended in the Ministry of Health's Circular 722.

(2) That when a second opinion is asked for a consultant of recognized standing shall be available, whose services may be obtained without delay, and that a list of names of such persons be compiled from which any general practitioner may select the consultant of his choice.

(3) That a representative subcommittee of the Medical and Panel Committee and the Winchester Division of the British Medical Association be formed which shall compile a list of names of suitable persons as set out in (2).

(4) That a committee as provided in (3) shall consider the question and report, and that it shall consist of Drs. Cox, Edwards, Kay, Livingston, Pern, Roberts, Smythe, and Young.

Dr. LIVINGSTON brought forward for discussion the leaflets issued by the county council over the signature of the county medical

SUSSEX BRANCH: HASTINGS DIVISION.—The annual dance will be held on Friday, December 10th, at 7.45 p.m., at the Albany Hotel, Hastings. Tickets (price 7s. 6d., including light refreshments) can be obtained from the honorary secretary (Dr. T. Reed) or any member of the committee.

WILTSHIRE BRANCH: SALISBURY DIVISION.—A meeting of the Salisbury Division will be held at Salisbury Infirmary on Wednesday, November 24th, at 4.30 p.m. The meeting will take the form of a business and clinical meeting. Agenda: Report of Executive Committee as to the scale of minimum commencing salaries for public health medical officers, and recommendation to adopt resolution under Ethical Rules; clinical meeting, which it is proposed should take the form of a general discussion of any cases of interest which have recently come under the notice of members.

YORKSHIRE BRANCH: DEWSBURY DIVISION.—A meeting of the Dewsbury Division will be held at the Batley and District Hospital on Tuesday, December 7th, by invitation of the medical staff.

YORKSHIRE BRANCH: HUDDERSFIELD DIVISION.—The medical dance will be held on Wednesday, December 1st, in the Royal Infirmary, from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.; reception, 8.45 p.m. For those who do not wish to dance, a bridge drive, commencing at 9.15 p.m., will be arranged. Tickets 7s. 6d.; admission by programme.

YORKSHIRE BRANCH: LEEDS DIVISION.—A meeting of the Leeds Division will be held in the Medical School, Thoresby Place, Leeds, on Thursday, December 2nd, at 8.15 p.m., when Dr. Herbert French will deliver a British Medical Association Lecture on a series of points of practical importance in treatment. All medical men in Leeds and district are invited. Under the auspices of the Division a dinner will be given to Sir Berkeley Moynihan, Bt., by the medical men in Leeds and district to show their appreciation of his election as President of the Royal College of Surgeons of England. All members of the medical profession in Leeds and neighbourhood are invited. The dinner will be held in the Queen's Hotel, Leeds, on Wednesday, December 8th, at 7.30 for 8 p.m. Tickets (12s.) may be obtained from Mr. Alfred Gough, F.R.C.S., 32, Park Square, Leeds.

YORKSHIRE BRANCH: SHEFFIELD DIVISION.—At a meeting of the Division to be held at the University, Sheffield, on Friday, December 10th, at 8.30 p.m., a British Medical Association Lecture will be delivered by Sir James Purves-Stewart, K.C.M.G., on hydrocephalus. The lecture will be illustrated by lantern slides and also by a cinema film.

MEDICAL WOMEN'S FEDERATION.

THE Council of the Medical Women's Federation held its usual half-yearly meeting at Leeds, in the council chamber of the University, on October 22nd. Dr. CHRISTINE MURRELL, President of the Federation, was in the chair.

Reports were received from the committees and subcommittees of the Federation and from representatives of the Federation on committees of the British Medical Association and other outside bodies. It was stated that reprints of the report of the Aviation Committee of the Federation had been obtained, and could be had at the office of the Federation.

The National Corresponding Secretary of the Medical Women's International Association presented a report on the very successful meeting of the council of the association held on August 25th to 28th in Prague. The question of increasing the contribution of the Federation to the International Association was discussed.

The usual report was made on underpaid posts advertised during the last six months. In all cases where posts were offered at less than the British Medical Association's minimum the Federation had written to the women candidates urging them to retire. It was a matter of great satisfaction that of the women who had accepted such posts not one was a member of the Federation. The Loan Fund of the Federation continues to prove of great use to members. Sincere thanks were tendered to Dr. Christine Murrell for establishing a new fund, the John Rains Memorial Loan Fund, in memory of her grandfather, Mr. John Rains, and of his active interest in the education of medical women. This additional fund was duly inaugurated and the seal of the Federation was affixed to the deed. It will be subject to the same regulations as the Federation Loan Fund, its object being to make loans to medical women, especially to those starting in practice.

Dr. Clara Stewart, President of the Yorkshire Association of the Medical Women's Federation, held a reception on the evening of October 21st. On the following day the committee of the Yorkshire Association entertained the council to lunch, and in the evening the council were the guests of the Yorkshire Association at dinner, when a large number of medical women from all parts of Yorkshire and the neighbouring counties were present. On October 23rd a visit was paid to Harrogate, where the members were shown over the baths by Dr. Laura Veale and the matron, and were afterwards entertained by Dr. Veale at lunch and tea.

DENTAL BOARD OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THE eleventh session of the Dental Board opened on November 9th, when Sir FRANCIS DYKE ACLAND delivered an address from the chair. He said that an important event had marked the period since he last addressed the Board—namely, the universal adoption of dental treatment as an "additional benefit" under the National Health Insurance Act, accompanied by a new scale and conditions of service. He had no doubt that the dental profession would endeavour to work under the scheme with loyalty to it, and would even welcome the assistance of regional dental officers in deciding questions which must needs arise. But he could not help wishing that there was a higher standard of general education among the population so that they might be more ready to utilize fully and properly the skilled services now at their disposal. Moreover, the best schemes of the educational, health, and insurance authorities were liable to be undermined among persons from 14 to 16 years of age, when the habits of schooldays were apt to cease, and before employment within the sphere of health insurance began. The Board might usefully devote some propaganda work to impressing on juveniles the importance of care of their teeth and explaining to insured persons the duties and opportunities of dental benefit. After paying a tribute to the work of Mrs. Mellanby and Mr. C. Lee Pattison on the diets of children—a work which had added "a new chapter to dental pathology"—the Chairman passed on to speak of contraventions of the Dentists Act. Since the last meeting of the Board thirty-three prosecutions had been successfully undertaken, and the fines imposed had ranged up to £25. One dentist, whose name had been erased from the *Dentists Register*, had brought out an ingenious scheme whereby patients were to take their own "bites" and he was to provide them with dentures without infringing the Act. He even offered his scheme to the Board on condition that it would replace him on the *Register* and reimburse him for the money which he thought he had failed to earn! Proceedings were taken against this individual, and the magistrate decided that there had been an infringement, and inflicted a penalty of £10 with £10 costs. Thus the first serious attempt to make a breach in the Act had failed. With regard to the announcements on dentists' premises, he was glad to say that, as a result of steady pressure, the Registrar had reported 150 cases in which, during the past twelve months, considerable modifications had been effected. The more blatant type of announcement had entirely ceased, and much had been done to improve the position of the profession and to bring it into line in this respect with others of a similar kind. His own feeling was that they had progressed rather faster than he thought they would, though not yet as far as he hoped they might.

The Board then considered a number of disciplinary cases, several of which had to do with dentists' announcements. These cases were dismissed on the respondents agreeing to make certain alterations in accordance with the wishes of the Board. One dentist who was found to have canvassed for the purpose of procuring patients was recommended to the General Medical Council for erasure.

National Insurance.

MEDICAL CHAIRMEN OF INSURANCE COMMITTEES.

DR. A. E. BODINGTON, physician to the Royal Hants County Hospital and a member of the Winchester Division of the British Medical Association, has been elected chairman of the Hampshire Insurance Committee. We have to record also that Dr. M. H. H. Vernon of Horsham has been elected chairman of the West Sussex Insurance Committee, and (as announced last week) Dr. W. A. Wilson is the new chairman of the East Ham Insurance Committee. At the meeting of the Hampshire Insurance Committee on November 1st, Dr. Bodington referred to the new departure of his fellow committeemen in appointing a medical practitioner as their chairman. Times had changed, he said, since the inception of these committees when it was thought that the medical and lay elements were bound to be in conflict; during the previous year or two the committee had always been unanimous. The present transitional state of public medical treatment was also discussed by Dr. Bodington, who showed how the admission of insured patients to hospitals was not yet on a satisfactory basis owing to the fact that there was no financial arrangement under

each meeting. Members are invited to show or report cases of interest at any of the meetings.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: CITY DIVISION.—The annual dinner of the City Division will be held at the Trocadero Restaurant at 7.30 p.m. on December 2nd. Tickets (12s. 6d.) can be obtained from the chairman, Dr. Harold Latham, 2, Hemingford Road, Barnsbury, or from the secretary. A meeting of the Division will be held at the Metropolitan Hospital, Kingsland Road, E., on Tuesday, December 7th, when Mr. W. E. Miles, F.R.C.S., will read a paper on ano-rectal fistula.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: HENDON DIVISION.—The next clinical meeting of the Hendon Division will be held at the Hendon Cottage Hospital on Friday, November 26th, at 8.30 p.m. Agenda: Receive report of representative; consider recommendation of Executive that the Division adopt a resolution in relation to the scale of minimum commencing salaries; address by Mr. Norman C. Lake, D.Sc., M.S., F.R.C.S., surgeon to Charing Cross Hospital, on recent experiences of American surgery.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: MARYLEBONE DIVISION.—A meeting of the Marylebone Division will be held at 11, Chandos Street, W., on Wednesday, November 24th, at 8.15 p.m., when a discussion on "Life assurance—doctors, companies, and fees," will be opened by Mr. W. McAdam Eccles, M.S., F.R.C.S., to be followed by various medical examiners for insurance companies. Representatives of assurance companies have accepted an invitation to attend.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: NORTH MIDDLESEX DIVISION.—A general meeting of the North Middlesex Division will be held on Wednesday, November 24th, at 3.30 p.m., in the Southgate Council Offices, Palmers Green. Discussion: Pyorrhoea. Opening paper by Mr. F. Talbot, L.D.S.: The physician and pyorrhoea.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: ST. PANCRAS DIVISION.—A meeting of the St. Pancras Division will be held at the British Medical Association House, Tavistock Square, W.C.1, on Tuesday, December 14th, at 9 p.m. Dr. C. H. Andrewes will give an address on recent work on filter-passing viruses.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: SOUTH MIDDLESEX DIVISION.—A meeting of the South Middlesex Division will be held at St. John's Hospital, Twickenham, on Wednesday, December 8th: 3.15 p.m., general business; 3.30 p.m., discussion on medico-legal points, to be opened by Dr. J. Crone, deputy coroner for West Middlesex. Tea will be provided.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: SOUTH-WEST ESSEX DIVISION.—A meeting of the South-West Essex Division will be held at the Wesleyan Schoolrooms, High Road, Leyton, on Tuesday, December 7th, at 3.30 p.m. Dr. A. E. Gow will give an address on infections of the urinary tract.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: WESTMINSTER AND HOLBORN DIVISION.—A meeting of the Westminster and Holborn Division will be held at Romano's Restaurant, Strand, on Thursday, November 25th, at 8.45 p.m. The meeting will be preceded by dinner at 7.30 p.m., the price of which will be 5s., payable to the honorary secretary at the table. Agenda: Report of Executive Committee as to the scale of minimum commencing salaries for public health medical officers. Sir Charles Ballance, K.C.M.G., C.B., will open a discussion on the surgical treatment of paralysis of the face and vocal cords. Sir David Ferrier, Dr. James Collier, Sir Frank Colyer, Mr. Walter Spencer, Mr. Herbert Tilley, and Dr. Risien Russell have promised to take part, and it is hoped that members will make a special effort to be present.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: WOOLWICH DIVISION.—A clinical meeting of the Woolwich Division will be held in the Cinema Hall of the Royal Herbert Hospital (by kind invitation of Colonel Hartigan and officers of the R.A.M.C.) on Wednesday, December 1st, at 8.30 p.m. Agenda:—Address by Lieut.-Colonel Macarthur, D.S.O.: Old-time plague in Britain; series of clinical demonstrations on hospital c es.

NORFOLK BRANCH.—A meeting of the Norfolk Branch will be held at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital on Wednesday, November 24th, at 3 p.m. Agenda: Correspondence; Dr. A. J. Cleveland, O.B.E., F.R.C.P., will read a paper on some details in the diagnosis and treatment of gastric disorders, illustrated by lantern slides and specimens. Discussion will follow. Tea at 4.30.

NORTH OF ENGLAND BRANCH: BISHOP AUCKLAND DIVISION.—A meeting of the Bishop Auckland Division will be held in the Cottage Hospital, Bishop Auckland, on Friday, November 26th, at 8 p.m. Agenda: Report of Executive Committee as to the scale of minimum commencing salaries for public health medical officers, and recommendation to adopt resolution under Ethical Rules; address by Mr. Hindmarsh (Newcastle): The etiology and treatment of hyperthyroidism.

NORTH OF ENGLAND BRANCH: SUNDERLAND DIVISION.—The annual address before the Sunderland Division will be given by Mr. G. Grey Turner, F.R.C.S., at the Royal Infirmary, on Thursday, November 25th, at 4.30 p.m., entitled "Thoroughness in surgery." The annual dinner will be held the same evening at the Palatine Hotel, Sunderland, at 7 for 7.15 p.m. Applications for tickets (price 10s. 6d.) should be sent to the Honorary Secretary, 7, Otto Terrace, Sunderland, as soon as possible. A clinical evening will be held at the Monkwearmouth Hospital on Wednesday, December 1st, at 7.30 p.m. All members are invited to be present.

NORTHERN COUNTIES OF SCOTLAND BRANCH.—A clinical meeting of the Northern Counties of Scotland Branch will be held at the Northern Infirmary, Inverness, on Friday, December 3rd, at 3 p.m.

NORTHERN COUNTIES OF SCOTLAND BRANCH: BANFF, MORAY, AND NAIRN DIVISION.—Professor Wilkie of Edinburgh University will deliver a British Medical Association Lecture on "Pain on the right side of the abdomen" to the Banff, Moray, and Nairn Division on Friday, November 26th, at 6 p.m., in the Gordon Arms Hotel, High Street, Elgin. At 7.45 p.m. the Division annual dinner will be held (tickets 8s. 6d. each). It is expected that the Scottish Medical Secretary will attend, and members of neighbouring Divisions have also signified their intention of being present. Members, who may bring guests, are asked to notify the Honorary Secretary by November 23rd whether they intend to be present, and, if so, how many tickets will be required. Evening dress optional; a room will be provided in the hotel for those who desire to change.

OXFORD AND READING BRANCH: OXFORD DIVISION.—The annual meeting of the Oxford Division will be held at the Radcliffe Infirmary on Wednesday, November 24th, at 2.45 p.m. Agenda: Election of office-bearers for 1927; Chairman's address: General practice. Dr. Cheatle invites members and their friends to take tea with him at the hospital at 4.30 p.m., after the meeting. Names for the Treasurer's Cup golf competition should be sent to the Secretary by January 1st, 1927, with 2s. 6d. entry money (see BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL SUPPLEMENT, September 11th, 1926).

SOUTHERN BRANCH: PORTSMOUTH DIVISION.—A clinical meeting will be held on Thursday, November 25th, at the Royal Portsmouth Hospital (Out-patient Department) at 3 p.m. As many members as possible are asked to exhibit cases, so as to make the meeting a success and of general interest. The procedure will be as follows: Examination of clinical cases in the out-patient department at 3 p.m.; tea (provided by members of the staff of the Royal Portsmouth Hospital) at 3.45; discussion (in the Board Room of hospital) at 4. The meeting will conclude punctually at 5 o'clock. Members are asked to inform the clinical secretary (Mr. C. A. Scott Ridout, 37a, Clarendon Road, Southsea) whether they intend to be present at the meeting and at tea, and also whether they will be showing cases.

SOUTH MIDLAND BRANCH.—The autumnal meeting of the South Midland Branch will be held in the Board Room of the General Hospital, Northampton, at 2.45 p.m., on Thursday, November 25th. Mr. W. Salisbury, M.S., F.R.C.S., will read a paper on uterine haemorrhage, and will demonstrate an apparatus for inflation of the Fallopian tubes. Specimens will be shown by Mr. Holman, Mr. Salisbury, and others. After the discussion of the paper there will be an interval for tea. The demonstrations, together with a description and discussion of the specimens, will follow. Members are requested to bring any specimen of interest, accompanied by a clearly written or typed description, they may care to show. A certain number of microscopes will be available for sections, etc. Members requiring a microscope are asked to send a postcard three days before the meeting to the honorary secretary, Dr. E. Broughton Barnes, 73, St. Giles's Street, Northampton.

SOUTH WALES AND MONMOUTHSHIRE BRANCH.—The following programme of meetings has been arranged by the South Wales and Monmouthshire Branch for the session 1926-27: January 27th, 1927, winter clinical meeting at Swansea; March 31st, spring clinical meeting at Cardiff; social meeting, by kind invitation of the Cardiff Division, about the last week in May at a place to be arranged; June 30th, annual meeting and dinner at Pontypridd.

SOUTH WALES AND MONMOUTHSHIRE BRANCH: SWANSEA DIVISION.—A meeting of the Swansea Division will be held at the General Hospital, Swansea, on Thursday, November 25th, at 8.15 p.m. A discussion on goitre will be opened by Dr. A. C. Begg (medical), Mr. C. L. Isaac (surgical), and Dr. A. F. S. Sladden (pathological). Each opener will be limited to fifteen minutes.

SOUTH-WESTERN BRANCH: EXETER DIVISION.—The next meeting of the Exeter Division will be held at the Devon Mental Hospital, Exminster, on Friday, December 10th. Dr. Eager will deliver a lecture on toxic exhaustion psychoses.

STAFFORDSHIRE BRANCH.—The first general meeting of the session of the Staffordshire Branch will be held at the North Staffordshire Hotel, Stoke-on-Trent, on Thursday, November 25th. The president, Mr. Aliardice, will take the chair at 4 p.m. Business: Correspondence; Papers:—Dr. C. V. Veitch: The early treatment of poliomyelitis; (2) Dr. Bruce Maclean: The differential diagnosis of jaundice; (3) Dr C. I. Milne: Notes on the etiology of thyroid disease; (4) Dr. G. H. Brown: The use of pituitary extract in midwifery. Dinner at 6.30 p.m.

SUFFOLK BRANCH: NORTH SUFFOLK DIVISION.—A meeting of the North Suffolk Division will be held at the Lowestoft Hospital on Thursday, December 2nd, at 4 p.m. Agenda: Report of Executive Committee as to the scale of minimum commencing salaries for public health medical officers; consider (*a*) fees for mileage for witnesses attending coroners' inquests, (*b*) fees for mileage reports to the coroner; cases and specimens.

SURREY BRANCH: CROYDON DIVISION.—A meeting of the Croydon Division will be held at the Croydon General Hospital on Tuesday, November 23rd, at 8.30 p.m. Mr. Gwynne Williams will read a paper on surgical emergencies of general practice.

SURREY BRANCH: GUILDFORD DIVISION.—A meeting of the Guildford Division will be held at the Royal Surrey County Hospital, Guildford, on Thursday, December 2nd, at 4 p.m. Sir James Berry will speak on the dyspnoea caused by goitre and its treatment. Tea will be served at 3.45 p.m.

SURREY BRANCH: REIGATE DIVISION.—At the meeting of the Reigate Division to be held at the East Surrey Hospital on Tuesday, December 14th, at 8.45 p.m., Dr. Hugh Barber will give an address on the treatment of some common diseases of the skin.

Panel Patients and Extra Fees.

SIR,—The majority of practitioners, especially country practitioners, who have experienced the work involved in panel practice, must congratulate Dr. Todd-White on his excellent, clear, and concise exposition of the state of affairs as it exists to-day (SUPPLEMENT, November 13th, p. 214).

When one surveys the question sanely, in the few moments of one's leisure, surely, it seems too ridiculous that the value of a panel patient's life should be rated at nine shillings per annum! It is astonishing that, in this enlightened age, such a highly educated and trained body of men can be found to undertake the serious task and responsibility of maintaining the life and health of a panel patient for this sum. Apart from all this, a doctor is after all a doctor, whose duty it is to try to cure disease, or at least relieve human suffering. Yet the Ministry of Health not only expects this of him, but compels him to spend much of his already only too short day in work of a nature usually relegated to the junior clerk or the office boy. What a waste of time! Would not the Ministry be squeezing a little more juice from this "rare and refreshing fruit" in exchange for the nine shillings by abolishing much of this useless clerical work, and allowing the doctor to get on with his business, enabling him to devote his whole time and energy in the real interest of his patients. Surely it must be the cheapest nine shillings' worth going, when one realizes that even one's hairdresser receives thrice this amount per annum, excluding tips. And now, are not insurance practitioners being asked to deliver health lectures to their panel patients? What next?—I am, etc.,

November 15th. OLD OCTOBER.

Naval and Military Appointments.

ROYAL NAVAL MEDICAL SERVICE.

Surgeon Commanders G. G. Vickery, O.B.E., to the *President*, additional for three months' post-graduate course; F. G. Hitch to the *Marshal Soult*; A. E. P. Cheesman to the *President*, additional for course; A. C. Paterson to the *Victory*, additional for Haslar Hospital, temporary.

Surgeon Lieutenant Commanders B. S. Collings to the *Marshal Soult* and to the *Canterbury*.

Surgeon Lieutenants H. Gow to the *Marshal Soult*; J. L. Lean to the Victory for R.N. Hospital, Haslar.

Mr. G. Phillips has entered as Surgeon Lieutenant and appointed to Haslar Hospital for course.

ROYAL NAVAL VOLUNTEER RESERVE.

Probationary Surgeon Sublieutenant D. R. W. Burbury to be Surgeon Sublieutenant, with seniority August 28th, 1925.

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS.

The following Captains to be Majors: D. McKelvey, M.C., C. H. K. Smith, M.C., C. Wilson, H. N. Stafford, M.C. (prov.), J. B. Fotheringham.

ROYAL AIR FORCE MEDICAL SERVICE.

Flight Lieutenants C. P. Barber to Basrah Combined Hospital, Irak; T. V. O'Brien to Station Commandant, Hinaidi; G. P. O'Connell to Headquarters, India.

Flying Officers G. J. Griffiths to Basrah Combined Hospital, Irak; D. B. Smith and F. C. L. B. B. Crawford to R.A.F. British Hospital, Irak; J. McM. Wilder and R. J. K. Chattey to Station Commandant, Hinaidi; B. L. Edwards and E. A. Aslett to Station Commandant, Basrah.

TERRITORIAL ARMY.

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS.

Major H. W. Symons to be Lieutenant-Colonel and to command the 49th (2nd Northern) Casualty Clearing Station, vice Lieut.-Colonel (Brevet Colonel) F. Darlow, T.D., vacated.

Captain F. W. Martin resigns his commission and retains his rank.

Captain J. A. L. Loudon resigns his commission and is granted the rank of Lieutenant.

Lieut.-Colonel C. Helm, D.S.O., M.C., Res. of Off., to be Captain, with precedence as from March 30th, 1915.

Captain T. L. Clark, late R.A.M.C., to be Captain, with precedence as from January 28th, 1919.

Captain D. Crellin, M.C., R.A.M.C., to be Divisional Adjutant, 46th (North Midland) Division, vice Major E. A. P. Brock, R.A.M.C., vacated.

Captain M. C. Paterson, M.C., R.A.M.C., to be Divisional Adjutant, 50th (Northumbrian) Division, vice Major J. M. Mackenzie, O.B.E., M.C., vacated.

General Hospitals.—Lieutenants R. Riley and G. B. W. Walker resign their commissions.

VACANCIES.

BRIGHTON: ROYAL SUSSEX COUNTY HOSPITAL.—Casualty House-Surgeon (unmarried). Salary £120 per annum.

CANCER HOSPITAL, Fulham Road, S.W.3.—(1) Pathologist; salary £1,000 per annum. (2) Junior Radiologist; salary £500 per annum. (3) House-Surgeon; salary at the rate of £100 per annum.

CARLISLE: CUMBERLAND INFIRMARY.—Honorary Surgeon.

CENTRAL LONDON THROAT, NOSE, AND EAR HOSPITAL, Gray's Inn Road, W.C.1.—(1) Out-patient Registrar; honorarium £30 per annum. (2) Assistant Out-patient Registrars.

CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL, W.C.2.—(1) Assistant Physician. (2) Resident Medical Officer. (3) Resident Anaesthetist. Salary for (2) £400 per annum, and for (3) £100.

CHELSEA HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN, Arthur Street, S.W.3.—Junior House-Surgeon (male). Salary at the rate of £100 per annum.

DUBLIN: ROYAL CITY OF DUBLIN HOSPITAL.—Visiting Surgeon.

DUDLEY: GUEST HOSPITAL.—Honorary Ear, Nose, and Throat Surgeon.

EAST AFRICAN MEDICAL SERVICE.—Two Medical Officers as Assistant Bacteriologists in Kenya. Salary £600 per annum, rising to £840 and then, subject to efficiency bar, by £40 to £920.

EASTERN DISPENSARY, Leman Street, E.1.—Gynaecologist. Small honorarium.

GREAT YARMOUTH: GENERAL HOSPITAL.—House-Surgeon (male, unmarried). Salary £150 per annum.

HAMPSTEAD GENERAL AND NORTH-WEST LONDON HOSPITAL, Haverstock Hill, N.W.3.—(1) House-Surgeon. (2) Casualty Surgical Officer. Salary at the rate of £100 per annum each.

HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN, Great Ormond Street, W.C.1.—(1) House-Physician. (2) House-Surgeon. Salary £50 per six months.

HULL ROYAL INFIRMARY.—Assistant House-Physician (male). Salary at the rate of £120 per annum.

HULL: VICTORIA HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN.—Resident House-Surgeon (lady). Salary £100 per annum.

IPSWICH PARISH.—Assistant Resident Medical Officer (female) at Heathfields Infirmary and St. John's Home for Children. Salary £250 per annum.

ITALIAN HOSPITAL, Queen Square, W.C.1.—House-Surgeon. Salary at the rate of £80 per annum.

KENT AND CANTERBURY HOSPITAL.—Second and Third Resident Medical Officers (males). Salary at the rate of £125 per annum.

KIRKCALDY HOSPITAL.—Resident Medical Officer (male). Salary at the rate of £125 per annum, rising to £150 if reappointed after six months.

LIVERPOOL AND SAMARITAN HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN.—House-Surgeon.

LONDON TEMPERANCE HOSPITAL, Hampstead Road, N.W.1.—Honorary Physician.

LUCKNOW UNIVERSITY.—Professor of Anatomy. Salary Rs.1,450 per mensem.

MANCHESTER NORTHERN HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN.—Senior and Junior House-Surgeons. Salary £130 and £100 per annum respectively.

MANCHESTER ROYAL INFIRMARY.—Resident Medical Officer. Salary £200 per annum.

MANCHESTER VICTORIA MEMORIAL JEWISH HOSPITAL, Cheetham.—Honorary Pathologist. Small honorarium.

MARGATE: ROYAL SEA BATHING HOSPITAL FOR SURGICAL TUBERCULOSIS.—Salary at the rate of £200 per annum.

METROPOLITAN EAR, NOSE AND THROAT HOSPITAL, Fitzroy Square, W.1.—Anaesthetist.

NATIONAL DENTAL HOSPITAL, Great Portland Street, W.1.—Honorary Anaesthetist.

NATIONAL HOSPITAL, Queen Square, W.C.1.—Resident Medical Officer. Salary £200 per annum.

NORWICH: NORFOLK AND NORWICH HOSPITAL.—Casualty Officer and House-Surgeon (male). Salary £120 per annum.

OXFORD: WINGFIELD ORTHOPAEDIC HOSPITAL.—(1) Resident Surgical Officer. (2) House-Surgeon. Salary £200 and £150 per annum respectively.

PRINCE OF WALES'S GENERAL HOSPITAL, Tottenham, N.15.—Honorary Clinical Assistants.

QUEEN MARY'S HOSPITAL FOR THE EAST END, Stratford, E.15.—(1) Resident Medical Officer. (2) House-Physician. (3) Two House-Surgeons. (4) Obstetric House-Surgeon. (5) House-Physician and Casualty Officer. Males.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON.—Milroy Lecturer for 1928.

ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL, Gray's Inn Road, W.C.1.—(1) Medical, Gynaecological, and Surgical Registrars. (2) House-Surgeon to the Senior Surgeon and Surgeon in charge of the Nose, Ear, and Throat Department. (3) Second House-Surgeon. (4) Third House-Surgeon. (5) First House-Physician. (6) Assistant Casualty Officer. (7) Obstetric House-Surgeon. (8) Gynaecological House-Surgeon.

ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL, Lewisham, S.E.13.—Casualty Officer (male). Salary at the rate of £100 per annum.

ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL.—Medical Officer in charge of Electro-Therapy Department.

SALFORD ROYAL HOSPITAL.—Two Honorary Assistant Surgeons.

SALVATION ARMY.—Junior Resident Medical Officer for the Mothers' Hospital, Lower Clapton Road, E.5. Salary at the rate of £50 per annum.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.—Pathologist in the Public Health Department. Salary Tls.600 per mensem.

SOUTH UIST PARISH, Inverness-shire.—Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator. Salary £170 per annum. Other emoluments from private practice, etc., estimated at £450.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA: SOUTHEND VICTORIA HOSPITAL.—Junior House-Surgeon (male). Salary at the rate of £150 per annum.

SOUTHWARK HOSPITAL, East Dulwich Grove, S.E.—Radiologist. Salary 150 guineas per annum.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL, Gower Street, W.C.1.—Clinical Assistant in the *X*-Ray Department.

CERTIFYING FACTORY SURGEONS.—The following vacant appointments are announced: Cannock (Staffs), Woolpit (Suffolk), Littleborough (Lancs), Clacton-on-Sea (Essex). Applications to the Chief Inspector of Factories, Home Office, Whitehall, S.W.1.

This list of vacancies is compiled from our advertisement columns, where full particulars will be found. To ensure notice in this column advertisements must be received not later than the first post on Tuesday morning.

APPOINTMENTS.

CUMMINS, W. MacAlister, L. and L.M., R.C.S.I., L. and L.M., R.C.P.I., District Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator to the Tattenhall District of the Tarvin Union, Chester.

HERINGTON, Cecil E. E., M.B., B.S.Lond., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health for Ilkeston.

HOBBS, Remington, M.D., Consulting Gynaecologist to the Royal Borough of Kensington.

POLSON, Cyril, M.B., M.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., Assistant Lecturer in Chemical Pathology, Victoria University of Manchester.

SAVAGE, J. J., M.B., B.Ch.Oxon., F.R.C.S., Resident Medical Officer of the Freemasons Hospital and Nursing Home, vice A. A. Tennent, F.R.C.S.

SMITH, A. Gordon, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S.Eng., Professor of Anatomy in the Medical College, Ceylon.

the Act for this, apart from the subscriptions of the Insurance Committee and of approved societies. After mentioning the increasing scope of the public health service, Dr. Bodington pleaded for closer co-ordination between it and medical practitioners. He hoped that clerical and administrative duties would not override therapeutics. The Ministry of Health had to concern itself not only with the sick but also the healthy in its preventive work, and industrial psychology was now making great strides in the improvement of the conditions in factories. The speaker thought it was essential that Insurance Committees should be a definite part of any controlling health organization, whether the public health department of the county councils or any other authority that might be set up by the Ministry of Health.

At a meeting of the West Ham Insurance Committee, on Monday, November 8th, Dr. Frank Challans was unanimously elected Vice-Chairman of the Committee.

Correspondence.

Fees in General Practice.

Sir,—The following figures relating to the average fee for the services indicated charged to "patients of similar economic position to that of insured persons" have been collected by the Kent Panel Committee, and may be regarded as amongst the most authoritative figures obtained up to the present.

Forms were sent to 692 practitioners, and 458 were returned. These represent a much higher proportion than the figures suggest, since it was rare to receive more than one form for a partnership. Of the 458 only 321 were of use in the present connexion, the remainder having reference to practitioners who were in public services, institutions, etc., or who were no longer in general practice.

The figures below are based on 321 forms, and probably represent the position with regard to at least 450 general practitioners in Kent. The total on the panel in this county is 520.

Forms were returned according to the following four types of district: (*a*) industrial areas, such as Chatham, Gillingham, and South-East London; (*b*) urban residential areas—that is, suburbs of the type of Bromley; (*c*) semi-rural areas—that is, country towns and seaside resorts; (*d*) rural areas remote from towns.

The figures in parentheses below show the number of records averaged in each case. All are a fraction of a penny below the actual finding. The forms were also entered on a conservative basis where any fee was stated as ranging between two figures.

Charge for	Area (*a*).	Area (*b*).	Area (*c*).	Area (*d*).	All Areas.
Consultation at surgery...	2s. 9d. (50)	3s. 5d. (75)	3s. 0d. (56)	2s. 10d. (50)	3s. 0d. (313)
Consultation with medicine	2s. 11d. (51)	3s. 6d. (61)	3s. 3d. (49)	3s. 3d. (50)	3s. 2d. (287)
Medicine only	2s. 4d. (49)	2s. 2d. (55)	2s. 5d. (46)	2s. 4d. (50)	2s. 3d. (273)
Visit (mileage extra) ...	3s. 7d. (52)	4s. 1d. (77)	4s. 0d. (56)	4s. 0d. (50)	3s. 10d. (317)
Visit with medicine ...	3s. 11d. (51)	4s. 2d. (59)	4s. 4d. (50)	4s. 6d. (49)	4s. 2d. (284)
Normal confinement ...	53s. 0d. (46)	61s. 6d. (73)	51s. 0d. (53)	45s. 6d. (48)	53s. 6d. (299)

The average number on the panels was: (*a*) 1,303, (*b*) 666, (*c*) 847, and (*d*) 688. One of the most striking figures is the low rural area charge for a confinement—that is, 8s. below the average in precisely those districts in which midwifery is most burdensome. It will also be noted that the rural practitioner with a practice (as judged by his panel) half the size of those in industrial areas has but little advantage in other fees.—I am, etc.,

Fred. A. Cloke,
Clerk, Kent Local Medical and Panel Committees.

Sandwich, Nov. 10th.

Ophthalmic Benefit.

Sir,—It is very evident that the medical profession is by no means unanimous in the matter of ophthalmic benefit as administered by the approved societies. Ophthalmic surgeons on the Ophthalmic Benefit Committees may pass without any opposition resolutions that all cases of eye affections should be sent to an ophthalmic surgeon, but the Panel Conference when asked to vote on the matter only supports the decision by a vote of 52 to 47. This voting shows that panel practitioners up to nearly half their number are in favour of cases where only spectacle fitting is required being exempted from being sent to an ophthalmic surgeon and agree that these may be sent to an optician. I do not wonder that it was decided, after this astonishing vote, to pass on to the next business.

It is a great misfortune that at all the Panel Conferences, after the business has been discussed for a time and what are regarded as the chief items have been disposed of, the Chairman proposes that all speeches be limited to a length in which it is absolutely impossible to present the subject adequately and clearly. Consequently, in proposing the resolution at the Conference expressing the view that all cases should be sent to an ophthalmic surgeon when the panel doctor required further advice, I was pulled up after a few minutes and prevented from saying more than a very small portion of what I wanted to say. And yet the settling of this question of ophthalmic benefit is of vital importance, for upon the way we deal with this specialist service will depend that of all other specialist services.

If we persist in unreasonable demands there is a great danger of the specialist treatment proposals being abandoned altogether. Sir Walter Kinnear tells us most decidedly that if the present proportion of cases are recommended to be sent to specialists then the money for ophthalmic benefit will soon be exhausted. Is there no way out of the difficulty?

I am of the opinion that it would be an ideal arrangement for all cases to be sent to eye specialists. But I think the practice of sending cases to a specialist in existing circumstances may be carried too far. All practitioners are supposed to know something about diseases of the eye and to be able to treat the more common ones. It is quite unnecessary to send any but a small proportion to a specialist. The report of the Royal Commission on National Health Insurance points out the danger of making too free use of the specialists. If the panel doctor is unwilling to take the responsibility of saying that specialist advice is unnecessary, and protects himself from any risk by recommending all cases to a specialist, he is acting quite differently from the course he adopts in other branches of his practice. For medical practice is a continual taking of risks. If in every case we do not fully understand we recommend specialist advice, our patients soon find it out and call in someone who has more confidence in himself. And the same applies in eye diseases. It is stated that only about 5 per cent. of cases are likely to be serious and really requiring special treatment. Cannot the practitioner differentiate between these 5 per cent. and the remaining 95 per cent.? Of this 95 per cent. the large proportion are refraction cases. Is it not possible for the practitioner to form some sort of idea as to whether it is a case of, for example, pure presbyopia or whether there is some other morbid condition existing? I think that if we agreed to state on our "recommendations" the reason why we think a specialist is required we should soon do away with the practice now adopted by many societies of ignoring medical certificates and sending all their cases to an optician first.

Another point for notice is that this ophthalmic benefit is not meant to apply to acute cases, such as acute glaucoma and other conditions of rapid onset and progress. Sending in the recommendation to the society and getting a permit to call in a specialist takes sometimes several weeks. These cases must be dealt with at once, and sent, like other serious cases, to a hospital. But to send cases of presbyopia and other refractive disorders to hospital when provision is made for their treatment by their societies is unfair to the patient and also to the hospital.

I very much regret the undue haste exhibited at the Panel Conference over this important matter. It is quite time that the profession as a whole, and not ophthalmic surgeons only, came to a definite opinion as to whether opticians are to be ignored or not. If we mean to fight them and limit their function to the provision and fitting of spectacles only, then let us agree among ourselves and show a united front and fight it out. It is in the hope that more attention may be given to this question that I venture to appeal to your columns. In the meantime I think ophthalmic surgeons should exert themselves by reading papers at every possible meeting and trying to convince their colleagues of the dangers of sending their patients to opticians.—I am, etc.,

Arthur E. Larking.

Hastings, Nov. 6th.